(b) whether the demands made by the LIC employees in their charter of demand in 1977 were prolonged till April, 1985;

(c) whether the negotiations which started from 8th January, 1988 for the revision of pay scales of LIC employees have concluded; and

(d) if not, what steps have been taken for settling the demands as expeditiously as was done in 1970 and 1974?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Several rounds of talks were held on the charter of demands submitted by the employees' unions in 1977. They failed in 1980. Fresh demands were raised by the unions in 1983-84 and the pay scales and other benefits of Clerical & Supervisory and Subordinate employees of LIC were revised by a Notification issued by the Government on 11-4-1985.

(c) Several rounds of talks were held with employees' unions for further revision of pay scales and other benefits in 1988 and 1989 and the revision has been notified by the Government on 12-5-1989 giving effect to the revision from 1-8-1987.

(d) Does not arise.

Review of collaboration arrangements with Pepsi Cola

331. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the collaboration arrangements with foreign companies engaged in soft drinks, particularly Pepsi Cola;

(b) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's policy in regard to foreign collaboration in food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No decision in this regard has been taken at present.

(c) No separate policy has been laid down for foreign collaboration in Food Processing Industries. Each proposal for foreign collaboration in the field of processed food industries is considered on its merits.

New food processing industries in backward areas of the country

332. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the new measures being considered by Government to have new food processing industries in the country, especially in backward areas, to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Various incentives are being given for the development of small scale industries included food processing industries in the rural and backward areas. Government have established the Ministry of Food Processing Industries whose objectives include development of a network of processing units in the rural areas which would create increased job opportunities for the unemployed.

Irrigation projects pending clearance

333. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of irrigation projects which are still pending with the Central Government for clearance; and

(b) what steps have been taken to give early clearance to these projects?